

KRAB KRONICLE

506th Aerospace Expeditionary Group

EXPEDITIONARY AIRMEN SUSTAINING GLOBAL REACH MAINTAINING AIR DOMINANCE
AND SUPPORT TO STABILIZE A NATION SO FREEDOM CAN FLOURISH



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Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

May 30, 2003

Home sweet home coming soon

By Airman 1st Class
Shawn J. Franklin
Contributing writer

The construction of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group tent city is underway. From the drawing board, to burning fields, to building floors, the 506th Civil Engineer Squadron has already laid the foundation for what will be home for the community of Kirkuk Air Base.

Although they have run into many obstacles, including lack of equipment, and delays with locals, not to mention the intense heat,

tent city should be fully established sometime in June.

First Lt. Luke Osborne who has been dubbed the "Mayor of Tent City," said he "appreciates the great attitude and enthusiasm throughout the base. From building floors and tents, to laying C-wire, the base has come together and has played a part in building the city."

Everyday 30 to 40 personnel volunteer to work from 6 to 10 a.m., leaving their primary duties, lending a hand to contribute to the effort. Working times are restricted due to the high temperatures.

Tent city construction has actually been ongoing since the latter part of April and there are many behind the scenes efforts that are going on that most are not aware of.

Just the planning process itself takes longer than one might think. Tech. Sgt. Mike Yudinsky, an engi-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

A crew of volunteers erects one of the 192 temper tents that will house members of the 506th AEG.

neering assistant, has been an instrumental figure in this process, Kirkuk tent city being his fourth beddown he has planned since arriving in the AOR. In addition, the power production shop has been working at the site during the evening hours trying to obtain power.

The main setback has been the fact that the geography here provides no raw resources, much of the land had to be shaped and fields had to be burned. In addition there was no type of plumb-



Photo by Capt. Jill Whitesell

An overview of tent city as of Thursday.

ing system in place.

The engineers also have had a hard time obtaining a contractor, to take care of the sewage treatment system.

This system is vital to the operational effectiveness of the plumbing system that

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

One of the final steps is to tighten the lanyards on the side of the tents.

EOSS ... It's all in the name

By Lt. Col. Brian Jurkovac
506th Expeditionary Operations
Support Squadron commander

Ten airmen in the initial wave of 110 who arrived in Kirkuk on the evening of April 21, 2003, formed the bedrock upon which the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron would emerge.

"This small, yet highly trained, focused and motivated team arrived in Kirkuk on a C-130 with the mission to integrate with and relieve special operations combat control teams, establish a robust airfield management function, and create an air traffic control environment capable of handling strategic and theater airlift, fighter/attack, rotary

wing, and international commercial aircraft on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis, in all weather conditions," said Capt. Jesse Hedge, initial cadre team leader and director of operations.

Master Sgt. Tony Kaczka added, "The initial operations support team, consisting of tower control, airfield management, and air traffic systems maintenance

personnel, was charged with the difficult task of linking up with Air Force Special Tactics controllers, who had been providing austere air traffic control for over a week, and facilitating the handover of all air traffic control, weather, and airfield management operations to conventional sustainment forces -- and they did this flawlessly."

During the initial deployment of forces into Kirkuk, all airfield operations were conducted in blacked-out conditions employing night vision goggles for safety, force protection, situational awareness and freedom of maneuver.

"Aircraft were landing, taxiing, and taking off in total darkness without the aid of external lighting or runway lights to guide their actions," said Senior Airman Ryan Moberg, an air traffic tower controller.

In fact, for force protection reasons, the entire base was blacked-out at night to prevent hostile forces from identifying and targeting American positions inside the base perimeter. Operations continued in this manner for another



Photo by Master Sgt. Tony Kaczka

Staff Sgt. Jack Malone provides an Airport Surveillance radar approach to an arriving aircraft in the mobile approach control facility.

two weeks until Air Force security forces commandos secured the perimeter defense and the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade established a safety zone outside the fence. In the initial three-week period, the manning of the 506th EOSS tripled and a seamless transition with special operations forces was achieved.

Over the next two weeks, the EOSS team gained complete control of the airspace surrounding the airfield by establishing an all-weather radar approach control providing aircraft separation and an instrument approach capability during bad weather. The team also established a fully operational, 24-hour, weather satellite and forecasting capability, a 24-hour airfield management and base operations flight, an Army ground liaison cell, and integrated with air traffic control systems maintenance personnel from the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

Although the EOSS has many success stories under its belt, there are still

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Submission deadline is noon, Monday the week before publication. All submissions are edited for content and Air Force journalistic style. For more information, visit the PA Office or call 460-0132. (Flag is courtesy of Michelle Butzgy, Pope AFB, N.C.)

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Inside the wire

News briefs

Promotion Ceremony

A promotion ceremony is scheduled for Saturday at 5:15 p.m. at the supply hangar. All personnel are encouraged to attend.

AAFES

The AAFES road show will be here today and Saturday with truckloads of goods to sell. They will be located at the BX clamshell near tent city.

Vaccinations

Small Pox and Anthrax vaccinations are given every Friday at the EMEDS tent. Bring shot records or immunization print out.

Right Start

The Right Start briefings are held every Tuesday and Thursday at noon at the courtyard.

Running

Running is strictly prohibited on perimeter road. A route is currently being drawn up.

Contracting

The contracting office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is located left of Gate 1.

CE hours

CE's customer service hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. They are located in the north wing of the courtyard building, last door on the right. Go through your designated facility managers and have them submit job order requests to the customer service office.

Finance hours

Finance office hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday

through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. They are located with contracting in the building by Gate 1. Currently, check-cashing limit is \$200 per week. They can also assist with accrual travel vouchers, Savings Deposit Program, and allotment changes. On paydays, they can provide members their pay amounts, however, they do not provide LESSs.

Protocol

Anyone sponsoring a distinguished visitor onto Kirkuk Air Base must contact Lt. Mel Turner at melvin.turner@krab.aor-centaf.af.mil or call 460-0099 as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Laundry

The 24-hour drop-off and pick-up point for laundry is at the lodging desk in the ATOC hangar. Laundry must be in a bag and will be returned in about four days.

Sky Soldier Theater

Movies are shown at the Sky Soldier Theater, located next to the post office, twice daily at 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Insect repellent is highly recommended.

Barber Service

"No Frills" barber services are available at the Sky Soldier Theater from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday through Thursday. Closed Friday.

Dining Facility

The Army dining facility is open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is open to all Air Force personnel.



Photo by Capt. Jill Whitesell

From the Hill to Iraq

Col. Jim Callahan (right), 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, greets Stephen Lynch, R-Mass., as he arrived at Kirkuk Air Base, Monday. Lynch, along with seven other Congressional delegates from the United States, met with Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno (middle) and Army Col. William Mayville, received an update on Northern Iraq Security and Stability, toured Chemical Ali's house and had dinner with both Army and Air Force personnel.

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challenges that lie ahead.

"Our biggest challenge is to establish a regional air traffic radar control center covering all of Iraq, from Baghdad north, and to manage all traffic flow entering and departing Iraq from southern Iraq and neighboring Iran, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. With this comes the requirement to provide base operations support functions such as weather forecasting, intelligence, and liaison with joint service aviation and ground combat forces operating in and around

Kirkuk," said Hedge.

Master Sgt. Deb Nelson, chief tower controller, reminds squadron members daily of their battle cry of "Embrace the Suck," which means adapt and overcome the hardships we face every day, look for the little successes and dwell on the positive instead of allowing yourself to be crushed under the negative.

As aforementioned, many challenges remain, but the EOSS team is focused and doing its part every day to make Kirkuk a better place for all American forces.



All fired up

Two firefighters from the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department work together to put out a simulated fire during an egress training. Along with other training, the fire department practices an A-10 egress once a week. "It helps us get more familiar with the aircraft so we aren't going in blind if it does happen," said Airman Michael Crow, who played the role of the incapacitated pilot for the exercise.



During the A-10 egress exercise, members of the 506th ECES's fire department team follow the procedures for rescuing a pilot from a burning aircraft.

From the time of the initial call to the exercise completion was only three minutes and 55 seconds, with the crew getting the pilot out in less than a minute.

"Everything went just as it should have in a real situation," said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Woodie, assistant fire chief.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Sunday

9 a.m. Sky Soldier Chapel
11:30 a.m. HAS behind A-10 Ops
2 p.m. Sky Soldier Chapel
7 p.m. Sky Soldier Chapel

Protestant

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sky Soldier Chapel
10 a.m. HAS behind A-10 Ops
2:30 p.m. Sky Soldier Chapel
7:30 p.m. Sky Soldier Chapel

Bible Studies

Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 p.m. at the HAS

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will be used to maintain latrines and showers.

The upcoming tent city is located in the southwest corner of the base.

CE and its volunteers are equipping the site with appropriate force protection condition measures, concertina wire, sensor fields, vehicle entrapment areas, and a guard overwatch tower.

The city will eventually boast a gym with cardio equipment, Cyber Café complete with telephones and computers for morale use, theater, barber shop, souvenir shop, cantina, din-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

Master Sgt. Rich Adkins finishes up a corner on one of the tents in the new tent city.

ing facility which is already in the works and BX that has already been completed.

Relax and take a deep breath

By Master Sgt. Wayne Stewart
506th Expeditionary Logistics
Readiness Squadron acting first
sergeant

When we're under stress, our muscles become tense and our breathing becomes shallow and rapid. If this pattern of responding continues for any significant period of time we can develop physical symptoms of excess stress, including headaches, trouble sleeping, muscle pain, especially the neck, back, and jaw, and feel anxious and overwhelmed.

One of the simplest, and best ways to stop this stress response is to breathe deeply and slowly. It sounds simple and it is.

Most, however, do not breathe deeply under normal circumstances, so

it can be helpful to review the mechanics of deep breathing and how it can help someone relax.

The essence of this relaxation strategy involves breathing in a slow and deep fashion using your diaphragm, which is a muscular partition between your abdominal and chest cavities. Breathing with the help of the diaphragm is the most natural way for your body to breathe, as opposed to using your upper chest.

You can tell you are using your diaphragm if your stomach expands as you inhale. To monitor your stomach movement during breathing, place one hand on your stomach and one on your chest, then watch them as you breathe deeply.

The hand on your stomach should be moving up and down more than the

one on your chest. Monitor yourself when you practice diaphragmatic breathing until you are certain you're doing it correctly.

Here's the basic breathing procedure:

-- Inhale deeply and slowly (about four seconds) through your nose, hold the air in for about one to two seconds;

-- Exhale slowly (again about four seconds) through your mouth, allowing the air to fully escape. It can be helpful to say "relax" to yourself in your mind while you exhale;

-- Repeat this procedure for approximately 30-60 seconds, or as long as needed.

For most people, diaphragmatic breathing feels awkward initially. Keep in mind that diaphragmatic breathing is a skill that requires practice.

Survival of the fittest -- don't be a Darwin Award winner

By Lt. Col. Kirby
Shineman
341st Space Wing Safety
Office
Malmstrom Air Force
Base, Mont.

Naturalist Charles Darwin proposed a theory that only the fittest species survive and others who are unable to adapt die out.

Safety officials must often feel that mankind is traveling the road to extinction. Rules are created to protect people from themselves, though many continue to believe they are the exception to those rules.

The Darwin Awards, an international honor to "those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it," is one indication that people haven't caught

on to the idea of "operational risk management" yet. ORM, a safety official's mantra, is simply considering the consequences of one's actions to avoid suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortunes.

The following Darwin Awards winners didn't practice this simple concept. They were otherwise normal people who put their brains on hold for a few moments and, as a result, won the uncoveted Darwin.

Life and limbs

A British tree trimmer sought to save time by burning old tree limbs at the base of the tree he was trimming. He built a fire and added limbs to the blaze from above -- where he sat in the tree. If he had taken a few seconds to evaluate this sce-

nario, he probably would have used common sense and broken this task down: cutting the limbs and burning them away from his work area. He didn't.

Can you hear me now?

In Kansas, a man was struck and killed by a train while using his cell phone to call for help after his vehicle broke down. The train engineer spotted him standing on the tracks holding a cell phone to one ear and cupping his hand over the other to keep from being distracted by the inconsiderate noise of a train horn. With time-honored cell phone etiquette, the man remained focused on his call and became locomotive fodder.

Man's best friend

Another award winner in the Ukraine was walking his

dog when a police cadet pointed out that dogs in that area must be walked with a muzzle and a leash. The pair began to argue and the man threw a grenade at the cadet's feet. The dog saved the day for the cadet when he fetched the explosive prize and dutifully returned it to his master for the last time.

Clearly, some of these folks are not the sharpest pencils in the drawer, but many of us become candidates for Darwins in our everyday lives.

Protect yourself by thinking ahead. ORM is a tool that can help you look at the consequences of your actions.

You alone have the power to keep yourself from being the recipient of a Darwin Award.

Take time to remember why

By Capt. Gregory M. Kuzma
506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Each day airman, soldiers, sailors and Marines take time out of their long day to stop and remember our brothers and sisters in arms and reflect upon our heritage. Many of them reflect in their own unique way.

At Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, several groups of airman have taken the time to reflect and remember through the flying of red, white and blue.

Members of the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron have erected a flagpole by the communications tent. According to Capt. Patrick Hilgendorf, flying the flag was done with careful consideration.

"Given the political sensitivity of our role of liberation rather than occupation, we were hesitant to fly the flag outdoors," he said. "But

like everyone else stationed here we all bleed red, white and blue."

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Moore finally asked the public flag display question to Col. Jim Callahan, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, who replied, "I won't stop anyone from being proud of their country, just don't showboat it."

That's all Moore needed to hear.

A spare antenna mast was erected and secured within three hours with the help of Master Sgt. Melvin Kendall, Master Sgt. Richard Green, Tech. Sgt. Doug Pruett, Moore and Senior Airman Tim Johnson.

The next morning, members of the 506th ECS stood in formation while the colors were posted, reminding them of the freedoms enjoyed at home and those they're trying to share with the Iraqi people.

"The 4th of July and Memorial Day anniversaries are more than just picnics and fireworks -- it's a tribute



Photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

In honor of Memorial Day, members of the 506th ECS, performed a revelry and a retreat ceremony including the choir singing the national anthem.

to our great nation and the men and women who defend it," Moore said.

The members of the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department have also taken it upon themselves to remember our heritage by posting and retiring our nations flag each day.

"We brought a flag and found a way to hoist it to the artillery piece that was here when we arrived several weeks ago," Senior Airman Rodney Grenke explained. "It is symbolic of our mission here in Iraq."

For the past several weeks, the Air Force fire fighting team, made up of Grenke, Senior Airman Chris Hendershot, Airman

1st Class William Onellion and Airman 1st Class Jonathon McGee, has been posting the colors at 8 a.m. each morning and retiring them at 8 p.m. daily on the boom of an Iraqi field artillery piece located by Base Operations.

The sounding of TAPS is played on trumpet by Staff Sgt. Brian Charney from the 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron during daily retreat. These events are open to all personnel who wish to attend.

"On some days, personnel come out and salute when we take the colors down," McGee said.

"We do it because we want to, not because we have to."



Photo by Senior Airman Jon D. Ritenburg

Members of the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron pay their respects to the flag located outside the fire department.

606th ACS ... Inspector of the skies

By Master Sgt. Georgina Yates
Operations Coordinator, 606th
EACS

What was once an open field of waist-high grass and weeds is now home to more than 100 Air Force personnel who comprise and operate Iraq's first operational air control squadron.

Members of the 606th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, call sign "Junkyard," arrived at Kirkuk Air Base May 20, and within two weeks, and ten C-17s loaded with equipment and personnel, it has become a fully mission-capable radar and command and control site.

"The men and women of the 606th EACS have done a remarkable job," said Lt. Col. Scott Fischer, 606th ACS commander. "What the Junkyard team has done here is unprecedented. This is the barest of bare bases, and they've turned this patch of dirt into the first operational air control squadron in Iraq."

Squadron members who were work-

ing around the clock erected operational radar, associated operations modules, 14 work centers, and the necessary infrastructure for communications with higher headquarters and data links with external agencies.

Fischer explained that the mission of the squadron is critical and requires each member to work together as a team to accomplish it successfully.

"Our mission includes sending the current air picture to the Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, via data link; controlling close air support and combat search and rescue missions with the A-10s; and we provide basic surveillance, identification and flight follow of all aircraft flying in the immediate area of responsibility. Junkyard operators work from two operations modules using eight scopes that display the radar picture. Our maintainers provide us with the entire spectrum of communications capabilities. We're responsible for theater-wide coordination and command and control, 24/7, so they're always working to maintain and

improve that integration" said Fischer.

Whereas most squadrons that deploy almost always require assistance from a sister squadron, the 606th is virtually self-sufficient, containing personnel from 15 different career fields.

"We have power production specialists that maintain the generators that provide power for the entire site, we have a vehicle maintenance branch, security forces, maintainers for the radar, radios and (Satellite Communications), combat-mission-ready operators and a medic, just to name a few," said Chief Master Sgt. Paul McGeorge, Superintendent of Logistics. "And it requires each of these specialties to ensure the mission is accomplished."

Members of the squadron, whose motto is "Inspector of the Skies," continue to work 24-hours a day, seven days a week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and to aid in the effort of stabilizing Iraq. The squadron is permanently assigned to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Deployed airmen help Iraqi school in Baghdad

By Capt. David P. Lester
380th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

Reaching out across miles of desert, a group of airmen helped Iraqi schoolchildren May 25 when they delivered the results of a "Win the Peace" program drive.

Nine men and women representing the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing traveled Baghdad from their forward-deployed location to deliver more than \$7,500 worth of school supplies.

The wing's "Win the Peace" program started in late April with the goal of

collecting \$6,000 in three weeks. By the end of three weeks, there was more than \$7,500 in donations.

"You could see the light in their eyes and hear the excitement in their laughter," said Chaplain (Capt.) John Sackett.

"In our discussions with the teachers, you could sense their love for the children and their desire to teach."

Coalition reconstruction and humanitarian assistance officials recently started an adopt-a-school program.

"The timing of the adopt-a-school program couldn't

have been better," Sackett said. "(The officials) had schools in need and were looking for a sponsor, while we had the money ... were looking for a school."

Wing airmen said they

realize there is not a "quick-fix" solution for the school.

"We know that our presence (at the school) cannot be fleeting," said Col. Greg August, 380th AEW com-



Photo by Capt. David P. Lester

An Air Force chaplain shows Iraqi pupils how to write their names in English during a trip to Baghdad.

mander. "The goal of this wing is to establish a long-lasting relationship, because we are here, we want to help, and we can make a difference."

Guidelines and Rules

- Wear of the uniform: DCU's or flight suits as authorized with sleeves down and load bearing equipment on.
- Carry weapon on "safe" with magazine in and NO round in the chamber. Clear weapons when entering buildings.
- Photos may be taken on base but nothing showing force distribution or

that would compromise base security.

- Kirkuk Air Base is a no salute base. However, be mindful of all other customs and courtesies.
- No mixing civilian clothes and military uniform. When you're in uniform, you're in uniform.
- Unless authorized and related to work, stay away from the flightline and ramp areas.
- Absolutely no alcohol allowed on

base. Place any and all alcohol, with your name on it, in the amnesty box on the rose garden patio. It will be returned to you when you are leaving to go home. You may also turn it in to the first sergeant or command chief.

- Wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer after using the restroom and before meals.
- Do not touch or feed the stray animals. Do not keep any kind of pets.

Commonly used phone numbers

Public Affairs - 460-0131
Fire Department - 460-0030
Command Post - 460-0077
OSI - 460-0800
CC Support Section - 460-0099
CE Customer Service 460-0021
Command Chief - 460-0052
PERSCO - 460-0122
First Sergeant - 460-0016
COMM Help Desk - 460-0000
EOD - 460-0903
Safety - 460-0090

Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Jason S. Post

506th Air Expeditionary Group
 Finance Office

Homestation: Cannon AFB, N.M.

Number of days in AOR: 39

Family: Wife, Samantha; daughter, Courtney; and son, Xavier

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th AEG? Ensure all information provided to the finance office is forwarded to Al Udeid for processing of deployment entitlements and provide timely answers to pay inquiries and check cashing services.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience? My arrival at



Kirkuk Air Base to see our lavish accommodations.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? Watching a base being built from the ground up.

What's Your Sign?

Aries - Don't take things the wrong way today, especially if it could lead to problems with your boss and peers. You say "Day 3," they insist it's "Day 4." Just go shower.

Taurus - Those close to you are not likely to agree with you. I suppose you're not hearing anything you didn't already know, huh?

Gemini - You are correct in your observation that your towel returned

from the laundry service with new and interesting stains.

Cancer - Rethink your direction. The last time you walked that way you tripped over some field wire running from those scary dogs.

Leo - You are not as invisible in the wee hours as you may think. Yes we can see you! For those late night "nature calls," kindly travel further away from the tent.

Virgo - Your seeping small pox scab will never

dry up or heal ... ever.

Libra - Mental note ... IMPORTANT! Your colon and tent mates will thank you to never mix the jalapeno cheese spread with the black bean and rice burrito again.

Scorpio - If you aren't happy, make a professional move. Escort duty is always an exciting way to broaden your horizons and meet interesting people.

Capricorn - Love interests are to be nurtured. If you're in a relationship, be sure to do something spe-

cial together ... like e-mail each other.

Aquarius - Keep busy or you'll become anxious and annoyed. The more you accomplish today, the better you'll feel and the less those around you will plot your demise.

Pisces - Take the initiative and don't be too shy to show others what you have to offer. Those skimpy black nylon "Ranger Panties" also come in U.S. Air Force blue.

(Contributed by a member of the 506th ECS)